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USSN: 10/727,487
Art unit 3742
Examiner Campbell

JUL 14 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim amendment

Claim 1 is amended to include the limitation of claim 3, with added clarification. Claims 2-4 are cancelled as redundant.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-7 have been rejected under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Geers. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of claim 3 and claims 5-7 depend on claim 1, so this rejection is moot.

Claim 3 has been rejected under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Geers. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claim 1 requires a sensor that "detects a difference in temperature of the tank from ambient temperature as indicative that flow of gas from the tank is occurring". Geers does not disclose or suggest this claim element.

Geers specifies and mentions throughout his disclosure a pressure sensor in particular to control the heater. The pressure sensor is on a hose H2. This is an invasive sensor to determine the need for heating of the tank. However, in the present invention as claimed in claim 1, the sensor is relates to a difference in temperature caused by gas flowing out of the tank, and does not need to be invasive. As the gas pressure decreases, its temperature decreases. Hence, Geers teaches an approach that is completely different from the invention as claimed and teaches away from the direction taken by the applicant.

Further, the examiner has misinterpreted Geers when he states "Geers discloses in the background of the invention that the use of pressurized tanks in cold weather is one of the reasons for the improvements. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to control the heating element based on the temperature difference between the tank and the ambient since it was contemplated in the disclosure of Geers." All Geers contemplates is the greater need for heating when it is colder, not the claimed technique of detecting gas flow due to temperature differential.

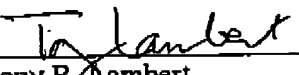
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Hence, claim 1 is patentable over Geers.

Claims 5-7 are additionally patentable due to their differences from Geers. Geers has nothing to do with the art of heating propane or LPG tanks at remote oil industry sites.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections, and allowance of the claims, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted, and certified as being faxed to the USPTO on July 14/06.



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